

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method of providing a third party logging proxy  
2 server, said method comprising:  
3 obtaining one or more product identifiers from one or  
4 more providers, each product identifier  
5 corresponding to a product;  
6 receiving a product sale identifier from a merchant;  
7 identifying one of the product identifiers that  
8 corresponds to the product sale identifier; and  
9 storing a sales record in response to receiving the  
10 product sale identifier.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least  
3 one of the product identifiers from one of the  
4 providers;  
5 wherein the storing further includes:  
6 calculating an account balance for the merchant.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:  
2 receiving a payment from the merchant in response to  
3 receiving the product sale identifier,  
4 wherein the payment is calculated based on the  
5 received royalty rate corresponding to the  
6 product sale identifier.
- 1 4. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:  
2 calculating an account balance for the provider  
3 corresponding with the identified product  
4 identifier.

1 5. The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:  
2 transferring funds corresponding to the provider's  
3 account balance to the provider; and  
4 modifying the provider's account balance in response  
5 to the transferring.

1 6. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:  
2 receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to  
3 the merchant's account balance; and  
4 modifying the merchant's account balance in response  
5 to receiving the payment.

1 7. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the  
2 products include digital works, the method further  
3 comprising:  
4 receiving one or more digital works from the  
5 providers;  
6 storing the works on a nonvolatile storage device;  
7 receiving a download request from a merchant computer  
8 corresponding to the merchant; and  
9 downloading one of the digital works to the merchant  
10 computer in response to receiving the download  
11 request.

1 8. The method as described in claim 7 further comprising:  
2 receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers  
3 corresponding to the digital works; and  
4 providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 9. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 registering each provider with the third party logging  
3 proxy server prior to the obtaining; and

4 providing each provider with an access mechanism in  
5 response to the registering.

1 10. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 registering the merchant with the third party logging  
3 proxy server prior to the receiving; and  
4 providing the merchant with an access mechanism in  
5 response to the registering.

1 11. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the  
3 providers;  
4 searching a data store in response to the inquiry;  
5 preparing a search result in response to the  
6 searching; and  
7 returning the search result to the provider.

1 12. The method as described in claim 11 wherein the search  
2 result includes whether one or more merchants are  
3 registered with the third party logging proxy server.

1 13. An information handling system comprising:  
2 one or more processors;  
3 a memory accessible by the processors;  
4 a network interface connecting the information  
5 handling system to a computer network;  
6 a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the  
7 processors; and  
8 a logging tool, the logging tool including:  
9 means for obtaining one or more product  
10 identifiers from one or more provider  
11 computers connected to the computer network,

12                   each product identifier corresponding to a  
13                   product;  
14           means for receiving a product sale identifier  
15                   from a merchant computer connected to the  
16                   computer network;  
17           means for identifying one of the product  
18                   identifiers that corresponds to the product  
19                   sale identifier; and  
20           means for storing a sales record in response to  
21                   receiving the product sale identifier.

1   14.   The information handling system as described in claim  
2       13 further comprising:

3       means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with  
4           at least one of the product identifiers from one  
5           of the provider computers;

6       wherein the means for storing further includes:

7           means for calculating an account balance for the  
8           merchant corresponding to the merchant  
9           computer.

1   15.   The information handling system as described in claim  
2       14 further comprising:

3       means for receiving a payment from the merchant in  
4           response to receiving the product sale  
5           identifier,

6       wherein the payment is calculated based on the  
7           received royalty rate corresponding to the  
8           product sale identifier.

1   16.   The information handling system as described in claim  
2       14 further comprising:

3 means for calculating an account balance for the  
4 provider corresponding with the identified  
5 product identifier.

1 17. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 16 further comprising:

3 means for transferring funds corresponding to the  
4 provider's account balance to the provider; and  
5 means for modifying the provider's account balance in  
6 response to the transferring.

1 18. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 14 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a payment from the merchant  
4 corresponding to the merchant's account balance;  
5 and  
6 means for modifying the merchant's account balance in  
7 response to receiving the payment.

1 19. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 13 wherein the products include digital works, the  
3 information handling system further comprising:

4 means for receiving one or more digital works from the  
5 provider computers;  
6 means for storing the works on the nonvolatile storage  
7 device;  
8 means for receiving a download request from the  
9 merchant computer; and  
10 means for downloading one of the digital works to the  
11 merchant computer in response to receiving the  
12 download request.

1 20. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 19 further comprising:  
3 means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the  
4 providers corresponding to the digital works; and  
5 means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 21. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 13 further comprising:  
3 means for registering each provider computer with the  
4 third party logging proxy server prior to the  
5 means for obtaining; and  
6 means for providing each provider computer with an  
7 access mechanism in response to the registering.

1 22. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 13 further comprising:  
3 means for registering the merchant computer with the  
4 third party logging proxy server prior to the  
5 means for receiving; and  
6 means for providing the merchant computer with an  
7 access mechanism in response to the registering.

1 23. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 13 further comprising:  
3 means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the  
4 provider computers;  
5 means for searching the nonvolatile storage device in  
6 response to the inquiry;  
7 means for preparing a search result in response to the  
8 searching; and  
9 means for returning the search result to the provider  
10 computer.

1 24. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 23 wherein the search result includes whether one or  
3 more merchants are registered with the third party  
4 logging proxy server.

1 25. A computer program product for providing a third party  
2 logging proxy server, said computer program product  
3 comprising:  
4 means for obtaining one or more product identifiers  
5 from one or more providers, each product  
6 identifier corresponding to a product;  
7 means for receiving a product sale identifier from a  
8 merchant;  
9 means for identifying one of the product identifiers  
10 that corresponds to the product sale identifier;  
11 and  
12 means for storing a sales record in response to  
13 receiving the product sale identifier.

1 26. The computer program product as described in claim 25  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with  
4 at least one of the product identifiers from one  
5 of the providers;  
6 wherein the means for storing further includes:  
7 means for calculating an account balance for the  
8 merchant.

1 27. The computer program product as described in claim 26  
2 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a payment from the merchant in  
4 response to receiving the product sale  
5 identifier,  
6 wherein the payment is calculated based on the  
7 received royalty rate corresponding to the  
8 product sale identifier.

1 28. The computer program product as described in claim 26  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for calculating an account balance for the  
4 provider corresponding with the identified  
5 product identifier.

1 29. The computer program product as described in claim 25  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for transferring funds corresponding to the  
4 provider's account balance to the provider; and  
5 means for modifying the provider's account balance in  
6 response to the transferring.

1 30. The computer program product as described in claim 26  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for receiving a payment from the merchant  
4 corresponding to the merchant's account balance;  
5 and  
6 means for modifying the merchant's account balance in  
7 response to receiving the payment.

1 31. The computer program product as described in claim 25  
2 wherein the products include digital works, the  
3 computer program product further comprising:  
4 means for receiving one or more digital works from the  
5 providers;



6 means for storing the works on a nonvolatile storage  
7 device;  
8 means for receiving a download request from a merchant  
9 computer corresponding to the merchant; and  
10 means for downloading one of the digital works to the  
11 merchant computer in response to receiving the  
12 download request.

1 32. The computer program product as described in claim 31  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the  
4 providers corresponding to the digital works; and  
5 means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 33. The computer program product as described in claim 25  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for registering each provider with the third  
4 party logging proxy server prior to the  
5 obtaining; and  
6 means for providing each provider with an access  
7 mechanism in response to the registering.

1 34. The computer program product as described in claim 25  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for registering the merchant with the third  
4 party logging proxy server prior to the  
5 receiving; and  
6 means for providing the merchant with an access  
7 mechanism in response to the registering.

1 35. The computer program product as described in claim 25  
2 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the  
4 providers;

5 means for searching a data store in response to the  
6 inquiry;

7 means for preparing a search result in response to the  
8 searching; and

9 means for returning the search result to the provider.

1 36. The computer program product as described in claim 35  
2 wherein the search result includes whether one or more  
3 merchants are registered with the third party logging  
4 proxy server.

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